The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Support The MIGHTY 7th WAR LOAN

WHOLE NO. 1783 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 24

LABOR'S HEROES

Washington, D. C.—Labor's own heroes in the armed forces are receiving increasing recognition, as is evidenced by the following official release from the Incentive Division of the U. S. Navy, which is reprinted here verbatim:

Two AFL men in the Navy are the latest additions to an ever-growing list of union members whose feats of bravery and cool courage under great odds are daily setting records of which the Navy is proud. One, a bombardier on a medium patrol bomber, spent 27 days on a life raft in the vast Pacific after his plane was shot down by the concentrated fire of eight Jap warships. The other, a pharmacist's mate on a destroyer, was credited with helping to save the lives of five Army fliers whose crippled plane was forced down following a hard-hitting raid over Tokyo.

Raymond R. Govea, Aviation Ordnanceman, Second Class, of Oakland, California, and member of Local No. 29, AFL's Brotherhood of Boilermakers, had just screamed "bombs away!" when a wall of fire from a Jap destroyer below virtually blinded all members of the crew. "I'll never know how Govea kept his eye on that destroyer," said one of Govea's mates, another survivor among the 11-man crew of the ill-fated Navy bomber.

Suddenly Govea's craft shook like a leaf, its controls shot away, its tunnel hatch holed like a sieve. It crashed virtually in the middle of a Jap fleet of six destroyers, one heavy cruiser and one battleship. The Nips kept firing while the men scrambled out of the escape hatch into their rafts.

After spending 27 days afloat on the open sea—haunted by storms and sleepless nights—Govea and the rest landed on an island among friendly natives. There they were given a hot and nourishing food and water by Philippine Army Headquarters, 17 days later.

James R. Ruble, Jr., Pharmacist's Mate, Third Class, former member of Local NB-1188, IBEW-AFL, in Marion, Indiana, treated six men from the Army Superfort after it was forced down between Iwo Jima and Saipan. The last week of Navy Quartermaster Ruble's life was crowded with deeds of valor, saving the lives of five of the survivors. Artificial respiration performed on two other crew members was unsuccessful.

Ruble's destroyer was escorting a convoy when it sighted the limping B-29. The plane lost no time in sending a distress signal, flew low over the convoy, then strode the water about five miles ahead.

When Ruble arrived on the scene, the plane was nose down, with her tail assembly missing. Debris covered a wide area. Three yellow life rafts were nearby. Some of the survivors, barely conscious, even lacked the strength to wave a welcome as their rescuers approached. Four other crew members presumably were thrown clear of the plane when it crashed and were drowned before getting their life jackets inflated.

Union-Made Fire Bombs Razing Jap Cities, War Department Says

Washington, D. C.—Around 100,000 workers are engaged in making the new "Goop" and other fire-bearing bombs which are credited with dropping more devastation on Japan than even the bombed-out German cities felt, according to Army Chemical Warfare Service. The roll of workers includes members of numerous unions at Army Ordnance plants, as well as AFL members in the Dow Chemical company, Louisville, and the Lonergan Company, Albion, Mich.

Incendiary bombs, the Army explains, are especially devastating on Jap targets after explosive bombs have ripped open a factory or other building and left it vulnerable to fire. The incendiaries, dropped by a second wave of bombers on days after high explosives have left, finish the destruction of bomb-hit targets by starting fires virtually impossible to extinguish.

Four principal types of thickened-gasoline incendiaries are disclosed to be in use against the Japanese, ranging from small six-pound bombs dropped in clusters of thirty-eight each to the 500-pound block-buster which, needing only a light-weight shell casing to endure its fiery ingredients, contains three times as much destructive force as a 500-pound high explosive bomb.

The 10-pound "Goop Bomb" which spouts a fire-making jelly is the recently-revealed secret weapon of Army Chemical Warfare Service. The viciously inflammable bomb comes down over the target, then erupts like lava erupting from a volcano, and are as difficult as volcanic lava to extinguish. One of the ingredients, a mixture of magnesium and asphalt called "goop," gives the bomb its name.

Goop was discovered when a magnesium product stored in a Kaiser plant in California, employing AFL members, inexplicably burst. Engineer James "Goop" is manufactured somewhat as a cake is baked. Workers dump a mixture into a kettle, cream it, add a small amount of several chemicals, and pack it in preliminary bags. This is put into a dough mixer, gasoline is added and the mixture is beaten to a pastry batter. This batter is then placed in a churn, diluted with jelled gasoline, and mixed to a consistency which lava is a strong, sticky, gelatinery material which sticks in glue-like jobs to anything it reaches, and because of its magnesium content produces the hottest flame ever known. This deadly lava will fly for 25 yards, land under the eaves and against walls of buildings, cling to the surface and burn.

These fire bombs made by American workers are carrying blasting defeat directly to the heart of Japan.

Unemployment Compensation Benefits

(As provided under the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill)

Average weekly wage	Worker	Worker and Wife	Worker, Wife and 1 child	Worker, Wife and 2 or more children
$10 or less	$5	$6.50	$7.50	$8.00
$20	10	13.00	15.00	16.00
$30	15	19.50	22.50	24.00
$40 or more	20	26.00	30.00	30.00

These payments are to be paid for 26 weeks if the worker does not find suitable employment (52 weeks if there are sufficient funds). The same benefits apply if he is temporarily disabled and has been employed in covered industries for 52 weeks in addition to the maximum duration for disability benefits married women workers are entitled to weekly benefits, in the same amounts, for 12 weeks of maternity leave.

AFL SMASHES CIO UNION IN SHIPBUILDING VOTE

Arlington, Mass.—The AFL won an important and impressive victory over the CIO in an election held among employes of the Electric Boat Company.

The vote, in which the AFL triumphed by almost a three to one margin, was as follows:

AFL	2,474
CIO	914
Independent	314

UNION WORKERS TO BUY TWO BILLIONS IN BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Members of organized labor will purchase more than half of the nation's four-billion-dollar E-Bond goal during the 7th War Loan Drive, Treasury officials estimated.

It was pointed out that workers are regularly buying a half-billion dollars worth of E bonds a month through payroll allotment plans, which would make a full billion before the drive ends on June 30.

However, the trade unions are encouraging their members to double and triple their bond purchases during the drive so that total subscriptions of at least two billion dollars in War Bonds by workers are expected.

SEABEES NAME CAMP AFTER DEAD AFL HERO

U. S. Bees in the Marianas.—Watersender First Class Charles P. Pinkes, former shop steward of the Local No. 97, Federal Labor Union Local 20186 (AFL), who was killed July 14, 1945, somewhere in the Pacific, when a mortar shell exploded in the firing ended, was remembered by his former officers and mates as they named the camp they are now occupying, Camp Pinkes.

Pinkes was employed by the Babcock & Wilcox Co., boiler manufacturers, and he was a member of the AFL union in that plant when the union organized in 1936. He enlisted in the Seabees on June 24, 1943.

MISS PERKINS TO GET TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, retiring from office after 12 years, will be honored at a dinner here on June 27 by friends in all walks of life.

David B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, is the chairman of the sponsoring committee. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will serve as one of the vice-chairmen, and Congressman Mary Norton, chairman of the House Committee on Labor, will act as secretary. Senator Claude Pepper of Florida will be toastmaster at the dinner, and the principal address of the evening will be delivered by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York.

Herzog Appointed NLRB Chairman; May Try To Cut Inter-Union Strife

Washington, D. C.—An era of decreasing labor representation controversies was foreseen as the result of the appointment by President Truman of Paul M. Herzog to be chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Herzog succeeds H. A. Millis, who resigned after the American Federation of Labor had served public notice that it would oppose his reappointment.

While he has served with the U. S. Navy for the past two years, Mr. Herzog formerly was a member of the New York State Labor Relations Board where his record was highly regarded by labor and where he succeeded in avoiding conflicts between AFL and CIO unions.

It must be remembered, however, that the law governing the New York State Labor Relations Board specifically provides that the workers themselves shall decide which collective bargaining unit they wish to be included in, thereby reducing the area of controversy.

The National Labor Relations Board, in the past, has assumed the discretionary authority to make such decisions itself and as a result has become involved in jurisdictional conflicts between AFL and CIO unions.

Because of his successful experience under the New York State law, it is expected that the new NLRB chairman may seek to follow a similar course in his new job. At the same time, AFL leaders indicated they would continue efforts to have the National Labor Relations Act amended so as to conform with the much more practical provisions of the New York law.

Mr. Herzog was born in New York 39 years ago. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1927 and from the Columbia Law School in 1930. He was an instructor in government and economics at the University of Wisconsin and at Harvard, 1928-31.

He was assistant to the secretary of the original National Labor Board 1933-35 and served on the New York Labor Board, 1937-44, resigning to enter the Navy, in which he is now a lieutenant in the labor division. He will be released to take his new post.

AFL To Launch Radio News Program "American Federationist of the Air"

Washington, D. C.—At last labor will have its own news program on the air!

Beginning July 7, and continuing each Saturday at 6:45 P.M., EWT, for the rest of the year, the American Federation of Labor will present over the Blue Network of the American Broadcasting Company "The American Federationist of the Air," a weekly news-magazine. The program will be listed in the radio columns of the newspapers as "Labor-USA."

Each program will feature special reports by AFL staff experts on matters of outstanding interest to labor, as well as covering news highlights. In addition, the AFL plans to present a "guest column" by a high-ranking personality in the nation's life each week. The programs will be conducted by Phil Carroll, commentator on the AFL.

If you are interested in the news of labor and its views on all important national and international questions, make certain to listen to these programs—regularly!

Supreme Court Outlaws Anti-Labor Florida Statute Regulating Unions

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court invalidated as an interference with the National Labor Relations Act a Florida law requiring the licensing of union business agents and providing also for the registration of unions.

The majority opinion was regarded as supplementing and strengthening a recent decision invalidating the licensing provisions required of business agents by the state of Texas.

The Florida case involved Leo B. Hill, business agent of Local 234 of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters of the AFL. The State Supreme Court had affirmed an injunction forbidding the local union functioning as a labor union and Mr. Hill from acting as business agent until they had complied with the Florida act.

Justice Black held that the purpose of the Wagner Act was to encourage collective bargaining and to protect the "full freedom of workers to choose their own bargaining agents."

Congress had made it illegal for an employer to interfere with employes in their choice of bargaining representatives, he stated, and had "attached no conditions whatsoever to their freedom in this respect. For the state to add this reason he held that Section 4 of the Florida law, setting qualifications

TOBACCO WORKERS UNION WINS WAGE INCREASES

Louisville, Ky.—Members of Local Union No. 226, Tobacco Workers' International Union in the plant of the Falls City Tobacco Company, Inc., have been granted a wage increase of 5 cents per hour retroactive to Nov. 16, 1944, together with a maintenance of membership clause and a check-off of dues.

Another five-cent hourly increase retroactive to May 7 has been won by the employes of the Luckett-Wake Tobacco Company, Local Union No. 207, of the Tobacco Workers.

GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE NUMBER OF EMPLOYES

Washington, D. C.—How deeply will reconversion cut into Uncle Sam's official family, in Washington and elsewhere?

During the next six to nine months, it was indicated by the Budget Bureau, 750,000 employes, mostly in the field, will be laid to "terminal leave."

The slash at Washington, according to the Bureau, will reach 20,000 a month. It estimated that the payroll saving will be $217,400,000. Elimination of overtime is expected to further reduce payrolls by $187,000,000.

THE AFL PRESENTS . . .

'BUILDERS OF VICTORY'

The Dramatic Story of Labor's Own Seabees

OVER CBS—EVERY SATURDAY—3:45 P.M., E.W.T.

Truman to Act on AFL Request For Emergency Wage Hike

Employers Can Afford Wage Boost

Washington, D. C.—How employers can afford to pay higher wage rates without increasing prices is explained in the following excerpts from AFL President Green's petition to President Truman:

In the 21 months from January 1943 to September 1944—the height of our munitions production program—production per man-hour in munition industries rose 47 percent—a gain of more than 2 percent each month. Yet during this period workers' wages were frozen. They received no general wage rate increase to compensate them for this enormous increase in productivity.

This enormous productivity increase gave employers ability to pay corresponding wage increases. But since wage increases were not paid, the result was an enormous increase in profits. From 1941 to 1944 corporation profits before taxes rose more than fourfold, increasing from $5,460 million to $24,870 million. (If cite profits before taxes to show the ability of American business firms to pay wage increases without raising prices.) Profits of unincorporated business almost doubled in the same period, rising from $6.9 billion to $13.3 billion. (U. S. Department of Commerce figures.)

To state these facts another way, the percent earned on net work was 9.8 percent in 1936-39; 23.5 percent in 1941; and 26.7 percent in 1944.

These figures show the kind of progress that has always characterized American industry and has in the past given us the highest wages and living standards in the world. Productivity in the past has made it possible for industry to raise wages and reduce prices at the same time, and still make adequate profits. From 1929 to 1940, for instance, average hourly wages of factory workers rose 13 percent, but their productivity increased so much that wholesale prices of the products they made actually declined 14 percent. These figures prove that there is no truth in the myth that wage increases must cause price increases.

The ending of overtime, that is, the reduction of the work week to 40 hours, will mean a loss of $15 billion in workers' yearly income as compared with their present take-home pay. The change from highly paid war production jobs to lower paid peacetime jobs will cause an additional loss of $3 billion. The net result is that as the national labor force, when emergency war workers withdraw, will reduce workers' buying power by another $6 billion. This adds up to a total loss of $23 billion in workers' buying power during the reconversion period which is beginning now and will continue until we reach full peacetime employment after V-J Day.

Of this $23 billion, at least $13 billion must be restored to workers if we are to create an adequate postwar market for the products of full employment. This means an average wage rate increase of a little more than 16 cents per hour for a forty-hour week to our 40,000,000 wage and small salaried workers, including government employes. It will require an increase of a little more than 20 percent above present wage rates to restore this $13 billion to workers' buying power.

Unless this $13 billion is restored to workers, it becomes a deflationary gap, starting a downward spiral, increasing the ranks of unemployed persons, and making full employment impossible. Workers will earn all increases given them. We may expect enormous increases in productivity in civilian industries as new machinery is installed, skilled workers come back to their peacetime jobs, and new techniques developed in war are put to use. Experts believe that in the first three postwar years production per man-hour in American factories will rise at the rate of 10 percent per year or 30 percent for the three-year period.

This, added to the productivity already achieved during war, and with the present high level of profits, assures us that industry will be able again to pay higher wages, while reducing prices.

Teamwork For Postwar Plenty

Washington, D. C.—Participating in an "America United" radio program arranged by the American Federation of Labor, AFL President William Green emphasized the need for close teamwork among farmers, workers and industry to help establish an economy of plenty in the postwar period. A part of his talk follows:

An economy of plenty for all Americans is the Number One postwar objective on the home front of the American Federation of Labor.

We believe that the first step toward the establishment of lasting international peace, based upon justice and fording every nation full opportunity to work out its economic salva-

In our country it is necessary to maintain a maximum production in industry and in agriculture, accompanied by full employment at a high wage level.

America has learned from bitter experience that when millions of workers are unemployed and when wages are depressed, the farmers and businessmen are bound to suffer, too. Farm surpluses and overcrowded inventories pile up rapidly following the wake of any general purchasing power of the nation's workers.

Finally, under the law, when the bottom falls out of the market on agricultural prices and the farmers are caught in an economic squeeze, labor and industry lose one of their best customers and are adversely affected.

I am convinced that these facts are taken to heart by all concerned, the way will be cleared for industry, agriculture and labor to work together on an economic team in the postwar period for the national well-being.

Already, a large section of industry and organized labor have adopted and ratified a code of principles by which each side agrees to respect the other's rights. This code seeks to establish harmony and cooperation in place of strife.

While no such formal charter has as yet been attempted between agriculture and labor, I want the farmers of America to know that the American Federation of Labor has always supported their cause and will back up their efforts to secure fair prices even more vigorously in the future.

Dewey Praises New York Labor Setup, Declares It Furthers Industrial Peace

Albany, N. Y.—Governor Dewey said the reorganization of the State Labor Department has brought about progress in the direction of a "new and revitalized department."

"The people of this state have just reason to be proud of the fine work done by the labor department during the past two years," the Governor said.

"But the department has gone further than mere improvement in the realm of administration," the Governor declared. "It has boasted a policy in the direction of peaceful industrial relations and improved labor standards in the postwar period. The convening of wage boards for the revision of the minimum wage structure, as in the case of the Retail Trade Board, should go far in preventing labor conflicts when the Board reports. A new industrial code is planned for the promotion of safety. Plans for greater service to returning veterans are in operation. Strengthening of the State's Mediation Board for postwar service is under way.

"We have forged far ahead of other states in progressive labor legislation. We have reduced industrial conflicts to a minimum.

"We are paying the highest workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance benefits in the entire country."

Also, the Governor said, New York's laws against discrimination in employment "are models for other states to follow."

AFL PAPERMAKER GETS SOLDIER'S AWARD

Washington, D. C.—For heroism without thought of personal safety, Sergt. Anthony T. Pierro of Jersey City, N. J., member of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers—AFL, has been awarded the Soldier's Medal, the War Department announced.

On March 12 at Camp Gruber, Okla., Sergeant Pierro's company was engaged in an assault practice against fortified positions in which overhead fire was used. Under cover of small arms, fire and smoke, an enlisted man placed a demolition charge on a pillbox and after igniting the fuse, ran to safety. Sergt. Pierro, squad leader, upon seeing a soldier fall wounded from a ricocheting bullet near the pillbox, ran to where he lay, picked him up and carried him away from the danger. As the charge exploded, Pierro shielded him with his own body. The promptness, coolness and courage of Sergt. Pierro saved the wounded man from additional injury and possible death.

Promises Prompt Decision On Green's Petition For 20% Wage Boost

Washington, D. C.—President Truman promised prompt consideration of AFL President William Green's request for immediate increases in wage rates to make up for loss of overtime and to maintain the purchasing power of American workers.

At a White House conference, Mr. Green told the President that the Little Steel formula must be modified to permit an additional 20 percent boost in wage rates.

Contrary to newspaper reports to the effect that President Truman had rejected this demand, the Chief Executive made it clear that he was gravely concerned about the danger of sharp reduction of wage earnings during the reconversion period and would investigate the problem thoroughly before acting.

It is expected that he will assign the job of working out a solution to the new Secretary of Labor, Lewis B. Schwellenbach, who takes office July 1.

Mr. Green presented a formal petition on the wage issue to the President and emphasized:

1—That wage rates can be increased without bringing about inflation because the higher rates would only make up to workers the income they are losing due to the loss of overtime pay.

2—That payment of higher wage rates will not force higher prices for products because of the tremendously increased productivity of labor and because employers can therefore afford to pay their workers more.

In his petition to the President, Mr. Green said:

"We ask for the immediate restoration of collective bargaining within the present price structure. We recognize the necessity of continuing price control while civilian supplies are scarce.

"The restoration of collective bargaining within this range would permit workers to regain at least the losses in their buying power of straight-time hourly earnings.

"An immediate wage increase of approximately 20 percent is due the workers, so that their spendable incomes will not be reduced by the price increase which has occurred since May 1942. This will overcome the injustice due to the Little Steel formula.

"Whenever existing low wages cause manpower bottlenecks, as in the textiles, lumber and soil pipe, then the necessary wage increases should be negotiated and submitted to the National War Labor Board for approval and recommendation for price adjustment if necessary. A 72 cent minimum is necessary. This change in wage policy together with the removal of manpower restrictions, would eliminate the major reasons for manpower shortages. Restrictive controls are detrimental to an expanding economy.

"As soon as reconversion gets under way, wages must rise further so that the total increase will amount to 20 percent to compensate for the loss of overtime and create adequate buying power.

"We appeal to you because only the President can free us from the grip of the Little Steel formula."

In discussing the problems of reconversion, Mr. Green told the President that the purchasing power of the nation's workers is the key toward expanding civilian economy before the defeat of Japan. He continued:

"Pressure of buying power is in proportion to continuity of current income received by availability of jobs as well as the level of current earnings.

"In the last analysis wage rates are the prime factor in determining the level of national income.

"The real key to providing employment for all workers in the United States, seeking an opportunity to earn a living, is one of the greatest our country faces after the war. Full employment is impossible unless consumers have enough buying power to create a market for the goods and services our industrial plant is capable at full employment levels. The consumers market depends more heavily on workers' buying power than the' of any other group, for workers buy 75 percent of all consumer products. May I repeat the wage rate is the key to workers' incomes. Our estimates based on U. S. Commerce Department figures, show that workers' buying at present wage levels will fall short by $19 billion of the amount needed to create an adequate consumer market."

KUENZLI'S SON GIVEN CITATION BY LEGION

Chicago.—In an impressive ceremony at a meeting hall of the Chicago Union Label Post No. 745 of the American Legion, Alfred Kuenzli, son of Irvin Kuenzli, secretary of the American Federation of Teachers, was presented with a citation. Alfred, a World War II veteran, was one of the famous "Carlson Raiders."